(b) if so, what are the details thereof, stating the reaction of Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) and (b) Pakistan had moved the bulk of its troops close to the India-Pakistan border in end November, 1986 under the pretext of taking precautionary measures against the movement of Indian Army formations in connection with Exercise 'Brass Tacks'. Our Armed forces took the necessary steps to ensure full defence preparedness. Thereafter, talks with Pakistan were undertaken at our initiative, which have substantially defused the tense situation along the India-Pakistan borders.

Checking the brain-drain

1015. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated annual turn-out of technical, medical and engineering graduates and what percentage of them emigrate to foreign countries in search of better prospects after getting training in this country;

(b) whether Government are aware that over one hunderd Indian medical graduates are unable to practice in Canada in spite of qualifying the evaluation test in that country;

(c) if so, what is Government's existing policy to check braindrain of technical graduates and whether Government have reviewed its working; and

(d) what steps are contemplated by Government to remove the deficiences, if any, in the policy in this regard and to give adequate incentive and encouragement to the technical and qualified persons to take up their respective professions within the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) The annual out-turn of graduates in Engineering, Technology and medicine at the 1st degree level is about thirty two thousand (32,000). It has not been possible to maintain a list of these personnel going abroad; hence percentage of these personnel going to foreign countries is not available.

(b) It is understood from the Indian High Commission in Canada that medical graduates from India and some other foreign countries who have successfully passed the Canadian Evaluation Test find it difficult to practice in the country.

(c) and (d) A number of steps have been taken to elevate the status of scientists and technologists and to improve their working conditions with a view to retaining their interest within the country. Some of these are:

The scheme of flexible complementing/merit promotion is being introduced in all the scientific departments/organisations.

Programmes have been launched through which core group of scientists are created in the country with all the necessary modern facilities required for pursuing research in new and frontier areas of science.

Special schemes are being implemented to provide assistance to scientists for attending international conferences besides enabling younger

scientists to attend specialised training programmes out side India.

There is a provision for Temporary placement of scientists and technologists under the scheme of scientists Pool. A provision has also been made for the creation of supernumerary posts.

New scientific departments/organisations such as Departments of Biotechnology, Ocean Development, Environment, Non-conventional Energy Sources, Centre for Development of Telematics have been set up and some of these are in high technology areas. These are likely to provide job opportunities for the scientists, technologists and doctors.

The financial allocation for science and technology activities have been increased substantially over the successive Five Year Plans.

Delegation of enhanced administrative and financial powers have been made to scientific institutions to improve the orgaisational efficiency and working conditions of scientists.

Poor response to FERA Amnesty Scheme

1016. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was poor response to the FERA amnesty scheme recently announced by Government; and

(b) what is the number of persons, who have so far disclosed their funds to Reserve Bank of India and what is the total amount collected so far under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) The Scheme is valid up to 31st March, 1987. A final assessment of the response cannot be made now. Upto 31st February, 1987, the Reserve Bank of India had received 63 declarations under the Scheme. Collection|repatriation under the Scheme will arise only after the Reserve Bank of India has scrutinised the declarations and advised each declarant about the legality or otherwise of his|her overseas interests.

Investment by non-resident Indians

1017. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at a recent conference on the role of non-resident Indians in the development of the country certain suggestions were made to encourage investment by the NRI's in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the decision, if any, taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) The conference was organised by a non-official organisation and Government did not officially participate in the discussions.

(b) Does not arise.

Expansion of CBI

1918. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to expand the Central Bureau of Investigation and to entrust it with new areas of responsibility; and